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TITLE: Apparatus and method for packaging products

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME COUNTRY

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ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=20020503 STATUS=O> An apparatus for <u>packaging products</u> having different shape and dimensions, such as for example food products of different size, into pre-formed bags of appropriate size, such as for example heat-shrinkable bags of thermoplastic material, comprises a conveyor (2) for carrying in sequence a plurality of <u>products (3) to be packaged from a product</u> loading portion (2a) to a <u>product packaging bracket end portion</u> (2b) thereof, means (5) for detecting the dimensions of each <u>product to be packaged while it moves from said product</u> loading portion to said <u>product packaging</u> bracket end portion of said at least one conveyor and a plurality of bag dispensing devices (6) for dispensing a plurality of bags (4) varying in at least one dimension thereof. The apparatus also comprises means for <u>automatically selecting</u> a bag dispensing device from said plurality of bags dispensing devices, depending on the detected product dimensions, and means (7) for picking-up a bag from the selected bag dispensing device and positioning it around the <u>product packaging</u> bracket end portion of said at least one conveyor thus packaging the product present thereon. A method for packaging products by

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means of an apparatus of the type above described is also disclosed.

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